

State Asserts Interest in Foster Homes, Adoption

CENSUS GUESS
Some population experts estimate the United States will have more than 171 million inhabitants by 1960.



By Charles Edward Chapel Assemblyman, 46th District
In response to inquiries from constituents, I asked the Legislative Counsel recently for an official legal opinion, which is set forth below:

Dear Mr. Chapel: You have submitted to us two questions which we will answer in series:
Is there a state interest in foster homes and adoption, and, if so, when did the State assume such interest?

IN OUR OPINION, there is a state interest in foster homes

and adoption. The first adoption law was enacted in 1870, whereas the State has licensed foster homes for children since at least 1925.

The State occupies the position of parens patriae and in that capacity has a continuing interest in the welfare of minor children within its borders. It has been held by the courts that it is unquestionably a function of this power, as well as the duty of the State, to guide its helpless young, and it is competent for the Legislature to provide for the protection of children (In re Weber, 149, Cal. 392).

THE LEGISLATURE has full power to regulate the adoption of children (Estate of Stevens, 83 Cal. 322; Estate of Calhoun, 44 Cal. 2d 378). Not only is the adoption law contained in the Civil Code purely of statutory origin, but the State licenses all agencies, public or private, which place children for adoption (W. & I. C. Secs. 1620, 1640). The first adoption law was enacted in 1870 (Stats. 1870, p. 530).

The State, through State Department of Social Welfare, also licenses and regulates persons and organizations engaged in providing foster homes for

children, although the state department is authorized to delegate this function to counties and cities (W. & I. C. Secs. 1620, 1622). This licensing function has existed since at least 1925 (See Stats. 1925, Ch. 18).

2. TO WHAT EXTENT does the State contribute to the foster home and adoption programs?

The State pays all administrative costs of the adoption program, after deducting such amounts as are paid in the way of fees by prospective adoptive parents (W. & I. C.

(Sec. 1641)

With respect to foster homes, the State pays each county or city which undertakes to license or regulate such homes on behalf of the State \$65 for each new or renewal license granted (W. & I. C. Sec. 1622). The State does not pay for the costs of care for children placed in a licensed home, although the aid to needy children program is available for such children if they are qualified (W. & I. C. Secs. 1511, 1557).

Very truly yours,
Ralph N. Kleps,
Legislative Counsel
By Edward K. Purcell,
Deputy Legislative Counsel

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Nevada-6 prefix telephone numbers in Torrance will change to SPruce-5 numbers in September, Dick Pyle, Pacific Telephone manager, announced this week.

The change is being made because of increasing demands for Los Angeles exchange service in the Harbor area, Pyle explained. New equipment will be added to that now in use.

Los Angeles exchange service in Torrance, Lomita, Wilmington and San Pedro is identified by the NEVADA-6 number. The new SPruce-5 number will be served from the central office at 1418 Broad Avenue in Wilmington.

More than 800 NEVADA-6 telephone users will be affected by the change.

New SPruce-5 telephone numbers will be mailed to local customers prior to the change of prefixes. FAIRfax telephones in Torrance will not be affected by the number change, he said.

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